



999 Together

An overview of emergency service collaboration opportunities developed by South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue with its local 999 partners, before and since the introduction of the Policing & Crime Act 2017



Foreword

The Policing & Crime Act received Royal Assent on 31 January 2017. For the first time, the Act placed a new, statutory duty on all three emergency services to look at opportunities to work with one another better to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

However, whilst the Act has led to a renewed emphasis on exploring opportunities for blue light collaboration locally, there are already many examples of where South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue is working closely with its 999 partners, saving money and providing a better service to the public. As well as the positive joint work police, fire and ambulance staff carry out every single day when responding to emergency incidents, these examples include everything from training and community safety work, to shared teams, equipment and buildings.

30 ways we've collaborated

1. **Maltby fire and police station** went live in October 2017 and means the police and fire service can share running costs, enabling funding to be targeted at frontline services. The move has shifted fire service resources around a mile closer to the east side of Rotherham, which traditionally accounts for a greater volume of emergency incidents compared to lower risk areas to the east of Maltby. It also improves services by making it easier for police and firefighters to share knowledge, skills and expertise when tackling common issues, like anti-social behaviour and road traffic collisions. In a similar way, it will help both organisations to reach the most vulnerable members of the community.
2. Firefighters now gains entry at hundreds '**medical break-in**' incidents each year instead of the police. The arrangement sees firefighters provide humanitarian assistance at emergencies where people are thought to be in need of urgent medical attention, but where ambulance service paramedics cannot reach them, for example when they are locked indoors. Firefighters will normally use specialist equipment to break into properties, allowing paramedics to quickly deliver help to patients. The work is helping to save thousands of hours of police time each year. South Yorkshire was the first fire service in the country to take on this type of work when it was trialled in Rotherham in 2014, with the arrangement now adopted by several other UK fire and rescue services.
3. **Safe & Well visits** are now being carried out in thousands of homes in Doncaster. The visits see fire service staff deliver crime prevention advice on behalf of the police, as well as information on healthy aging, stopping falls and preventing fires. The visits will soon be delivered in Barnsley, Rotherham and Sheffield as well.
4. **Princes Trust Team Programme** is jointly delivered by the fire service and police and has helped to improve the life chances of more than 120 young people since it started in 2016. The 13 week programme includes work experience, a community project and a residential week and is overseen by staff from both the police and fire services.
5. The **Lifewise Centre** is an interactive safety centre in Hellaby, Rotherham which has been jointly run by the police and fire services since 2011 to deliver education packages to more than 20,000 local people every year, including nearly every Year 6 pupil in South Yorkshire.
6. Emergency services in Yorkshire and the Humber, along with NHS England and Public Health England, recently pledged to work even closer together for the benefit of the health and well-being of people across the region. The **Yorkshire and Humber Emergency Services Prevention and Early Intervention Consensus Statement** was co-ordinated by Public Health England and focuses on organizations using their joint



intelligence and skills to support communities with ill-health prevention and early intervention where problems are identified.

7. A **Local Intervention and Falls Episodes (LIFE)** team was piloted in Sheffield which saw fire and police staff visit hundreds of homes in the city to reduce fire risk in properties, improve security and help people who have fallen and contribute to reducing the risk of falls. The successful aspects of the pilot are now being embedded into each organisation's joint community safety activities.
8. Dearne fire station is being used as a location to carry out police **taser training**. The station has a dedicated training building which is well suited to this type of activity.
9. The fire service's Training & Development Centre in Sheffield is used as an **assessment base for new police officer recruits**, plus police run **personal safety courses and fitness testing** sessions.
10. The police owned Robert Dyson House is made available for **fire service command training**, as well as other multi-agency exercises.
11. **Joint Decision Making training** has been delivered by police to fire service middle managers, improving the way officers make dynamic decisions at operational incidents.
12. **Manual handling training** for new firefighters is delivered by police health and safety staff during their induction week.
13. Police staff also provide **Emergency First Aid (EFA)** and **First Aid at Work (FAW)** courses to fire service staff.
14. Fire service managers now **observe police training exercises**, to improve their understanding of the police response to major emergencies, such as potential terrorism related incidents.
15. Fire service staff deliver **IOSH Managing Safely courses** to police staff, saving the potential costs of staff attending training delivered by an external provider.
16. The fire service uses the police's in-house **graphic designer** to produce artwork for safety campaigns, some of which have won national awards for their impact on reducing house fires.
17. The fire service and police work together on joint **public awareness campaigns**, such as 'Connor's Story', which aimed to reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour around Halloween and Bonfire Night.
18. A police trailer is now being used as a vehicle for fire service **LGV driver training**. Fire service driving instructors also deliver driver familiarisation training to other 999 services.
19. Police staff contribute to fire service **assessments and practical incident scenarios**, including supporting realistic incident simulations and assessments to test candidates' operational capability and decision making.
20. The fire service and police are sharing learning and policies in relation to supporting the **mental health and wellbeing** of their staff. Both are now signatories of the MIND Blue Light Pledge, which aims to support organisations with their work in this area.



21. The fire service carries out servicing of some specialist police vehicles, such as **CRBNE trailers** which would be used if responding to suspected chemical, biological, radioactive, nuclear and explosive incidents.
22. The fire service and police work together on planning **joint operations**, such as Operation Dark Nights which saw the partners come together to jointly manage their response to incidents during the traditionally busy Halloween and Bonfire Night period.
23. Police and fire service **community safety teams** are being merged to ensure a more coordinated approach to each organisation's prevention work. The fire service's prevention work has led to big reductions in house fires during the last 15 years, and it is hoped similar techniques can be applied to crime prevention and other priority areas.
24. A new **joint Head of Estates & Facilities Management** is being appointed who will oversee estates and facilities within the fire service and police, with employment costs shared between both organisations
25. A project is being developed to implement a new shared **fleet management** team, which will jointly oversee the maintenance of police and fire service vehicles.
26. Internal stores deliveries to fire service premises are carried out by a police **delivery driver**
27. For many years the fire service allowed Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) to use Aston Park and Edlington fire stations as **ambulance stand-by points**, meaning paramedics can use the stations' office and welfare facilities when not attending 999 calls.
28. South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue is leading a regional group of fire service colleagues to explore the potential of **collaborative procurement of personal protective equipment** (PPE) for firefighters. It is hoped that working together to buy common pieces of PPE will help them work more closely together and save the tax payer money.
29. The fire service works with its Yorkshire & Humberside colleagues to provide a regional **Fire Investigation** capability, meaning that specialist officers may be called upon to investigate serious incidents, including fatal fires, involving any of the region's four fire and rescue services.
30. A new **control and mobilising** system was jointly procured as part of a project with West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue. The new system gives both fire services increased resilience and improved business continuity measures.

